Nantucket 7th mo 12th 1839

Maria W. Chapman.

Dear Friend.

As Anna has not taken any care of the silk, she handed thy letter to me, to which I take the liberty of replying. True we have been waiting rather anxiously for it, but we could not for one moment, suppose the delay was occasioned by any negligence or forgetfulness of thine. We should prefer some other design, rather than any illustration of the Martyrdom of Lovejoy, for reasons which will at once suggest themselves to thy mind. We are doing what our limited means will allow to advance the cause of the bondmen, and awaken an interest on his behalf in our community. We are now about forming a new organization (an account of which will be furnished for the Liberator, by our Secy, Anna Gardner) not auxiliary to the Abolition Society, but to the (M.S.A.S.S, on the broad principle of equality, with an executive committee of Men and Women, this will dissolve our Womens Society, and our old County Society whose constitution is not to be found, and the Men as a body seemed to forget that they had a work to do, leaving all action to the Womens Society. These considerations induced us to form a new society, in the belief that we shall not with them settle down into inactivity, or "leave them to do all the work," but that we shall all be stimulated to make greater sacrifices, and to more vigorous action for the down-trodden and the dumb. — We have for the last week been

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favoured with the company and labours of Brother Wright among us, and although on acct. of illness in our family we have not enjoyed much of his company, yet it is pleasant to know that he is with us scattering the good seed, and although some may fall by the way side, and much among thorns, yet we doubt not some will bring forth even a hundred fold. There is much opposition to carrying out the principles of Nonresistance here, but a passive submission to the theory. We are to have a meeting for discussion this evening, several gentlemen ~~among them Geo. Bradburn~~ wishing to state objections, but if they are as easily answered as those have been that have been made — socialy, Nonresistans need not fear for their cause. ~~Let~~ Please append my name to the constitution of the N E Nonresistance Society. For some time past I have been fully satisfied of the truthfulness of the principles embodied in that constitution and Declaration of Sentiments, I have only been detered from identifying myself among you, by the fear that I should not consistently carry out the principles, but that I thought by giving my name to that instrument, I could in any way increase my obligation to do right, but I satisfied myself with saying in the present state of the world, they can not be carried into practice. This I have now renounced, believing the doctrines and principles to have been inculcated 1800 years ago, and the principles to be those that were then — have been — and are now — the essential principles of Christianity. Brother Wright has lectured to the children several times and they are delighted with him. Last evening he lectured on Human Rights and the audience on

deck of the rain was small, but it was a first rate lecture. One of the audience who was neither a Non-resistant, or an Abolitionist, but, a minister who has been said it approached nearer to inspiration than any thing he ever heard. I have no doubt W.G.B.' labours will be productive of much good, by waking up in many minds a desire to know and search after truth. Anna, Sister Elizabeth & myself wish to be remembered to our friends in Boston — We often recur to our visit with feelings of pleasure, and hesitate not to pronounce it one of the most pleasant and profitable seasons of our lives. —

Please excuse the length of this communication. I did not intend to be so tedious.

Thine affectionately
Charlotte Austin

Wm & A W Easton wishes to be remembered to thee & thy sisters.

Ms. A. 5.2.11.136

Charlotte Austin
1839
Lair.

Maria W. Chapman

To be left at 25 Cornhill
Boston

Boston
Mass